



Newsletter 19 2017-18

Friday 26th January 2018

Dear Parents and JIS community

School reports were sent out today for the first half of the academic year. Please read them carefully and share the information with your child(ren). It is an important time of the year as students have opportunities to make real progress during the next few months up to June, using their learning targets as a guide. In order for us to continue to review our own practices we have created a very short survey on the school reports which we would be delighted if you could spend a moment or two to complete. We aim to make our school reports, specific, developmental and highly reflective of the students time and progress in school – the staff spend many hours in their preparation, so it is important for us to know how that transfers to the parent and student community.

School report questionnaire link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/eeJTLj379mR8ils22>

Around JIS: week 4

P3 and P4 Art exhibition

The P3 and P4 classes put on their arts exhibition on Wednesday for the school and their parents to share. This is the end of a very busy and successful unit of inquiry for the two classes which has seen them collaborate on a huge range of arts ideas and initiatives over the last few weeks. They have danced, drawn, painted, created music, taken photographs, performed drama, and then found time to explore an artist or area of the arts that inspires them. Well done to everybody!



Students were very confident and knowledgeable about their chosen topic for research and had created displays, MSpowerpoints, videos, animations and some short performances for us all.

Many thanks to all the parents who came along to help get things ready and to all the visiting ‘experts’ who visited the classes to offer some inspirations and creative ideas, during this unit of inquiry.

P1 visit to the Sheung Yiu Folk Museum – Sai Kung country park

The P1 class had a perfect day for their trip to the Sheung Yiu Folk Museum on Thursday. It is a fabulous little museum – a restored clan family house which allowed all the P1 class to imagine pirates, bandits and lots of ‘old things’. The students did a lot of ‘same and different’ comparisons with their own homes and will get another opportunity next week to expand on this when they visit Sha Lo Tung village near Tai Po.



A great day out learning some valuable history and spotting fish, crabs and wild birds in the HK countryside.

P2 at Shatin Post Office - Tuesday

P2 whizzed off to the main Post Office in Shatin to put our postal system to the test by posting a letter to some students in another HK international school. They also took the opportunity to do some sketching in the Temple of 10, 000 Buddha’s just behind the Post Office.



Reception to Shatin Park - Wednesday



Busy with their ‘journeys’ unit of inquiry – the Reception class set off on a journey of their own to Shatin park this week. They explored the park, the play areas and then stayed for lunch!

Japanese Section Open day – tomorrow - Saturday 27th January

The Japanese Section of the school will be celebrating with their school community tomorrow with their annual Open Day. Any parents or students wishing to come along would be welcome, but there is NO parking available on school grounds.

ESSPA Lunch – change of date – Monday 29th January – not Friday 26th!

Due to a clash of booking with the Rec, P1 and P2 theatre trip ESSPA have very kindly agreed to move their special lunch to NEXT MONDAY.

Please make sure your child has only snack on Monday 29th – if you have preordered a lunch from ESSPA.

Catering option for parents: - log on to www.thenewluncher.hk for details

ESSPA and the school have been approached by a new start-up company in HK to explore the possibility of providing catering at lunchtime for JIS students. The company is offering to create lunches and deliver to school when it has been pre-ordered via their website. The arrangement will be not related to school at all and is entirely voluntary, but it may suit some of our families whose lives are busy and who struggle to arrange a lunch at 6:30a.m. for their children!

'The new Luncher' is viewable at www.thenewluncher.hk if parents are interested. There is a promise of 'healthy' food and an efficient delivery service to school. All payments and orders are managed through the website, not through the school office. The school has no commercial interest in this arrangement but we feel it may appeal to some of our families, whilst others will be happy with their current arrangement of creating their own lunches.

Active Parenting Course:

We have mentioned our intention to run the Active Parenting course again for the school community in a few previous newsletters. The course is really proactive and useful and will hopefully be running in April and May as an evening event 7-9pm so as to allow as many families as possible to access it. We need around 10-12 parents to get involved, currently we have 7. Please get in touch with Kim Murch in the school office or Glenda Bailie in Student Support for more details or reviews from previous course members.

April – 19, 26, May 10, 17, 24, 31.

Art Literacy Project – part 2 – Ancient Chinese painting

Many thanks to Ms. De Thier and her group of JIS parental volunteers who are now ready to launch their next series of workshops and information sessions.

A message from Annette De Thier:

'Our next session to be held early February will be Ancient Chinese Painting, just in time for Chinese New Year! If you are interested in joining us to learn these techniques and helping to impart them to the students, come and join us on Tuesday, 6th February at 6pm in the JIS Art Room. There we will learn about this art form and have a go! No experience needed!'

If you would like more information before hand please contact Annette De Thier, P1 Teacher on [a-dethier@jis.edu.hk](mailto:adethier@jis.edu.hk).

Single use plastics campaign – 'tree leaf' commitment

Hopefully everyone has received some information so far related to the JIS 'single-use plastics campaign' – all families have been asked to make a pledge to change a habit, regarding plastics and record it on the green leaf sent home recently. The idea is to create a large tree of the leaves to show our combined commitment to changing this important habit / aspect of how we view our environment.

We plan to make a large commitment tree as a display item in the school – perhaps on the stairs, so that we are all reminded every day about how we can make a difference to the oceans and landfills. Many thanks to Fional Merrill for leading this initiative for us all



Dates for the week ahead: January 2018

Monday 29th:

Tuesday 30th: P5 to Tai Po Kau Country Park - a.m.

-JIS BoD meeting – Mr Walton to attend 12-2pm

Wednesday 31st: Setsubun Festival celebrations in Japanese class – cooking and bean throwing

Thursday 1st: P1 trip to Sha Lo Tung village

Friday 2nd:

Saturday 3rd

ICHK newsletter link: not available at time of publication – will share asap.

Also - dates for the diary:

On Monday, February 5th, author Sarah Brennan will visit P2 to P6 classes to share her latest book based on the Chinese zodiac: The Tale of Desmond Dog. Order forms for Sarah Brennan's books have been sent out today with students. Any students wishing to order signed copies of Sarah Brennan's books should return the order forms and payment to their class teacher before Friday, 2nd February.

On Wednesday 7th February, P3 - P6 students will get to visit the Discovery Dome, a mobile planetarium which will be set up on our gymnasium for the day. P3s and P4s will learn about the changing nature of our Earth and P5s and P6s will become experts on climate change

Influenza and student well-being: important message for us all

Sadly in today's news headlines we hear that a young HK student has died from influenza B. As this is the traditional 'flu season' in Hong Kong we all need to be careful and vigilant about student health. So far in international section, we are very lucky to have healthy, active students. However, can we please ask that if your child is unwell (aches, pains), or has a temperature or fever that you keep them at home for at least 24 hours to monitor their health – if symptoms persist, please see a doctor.

In Japanese section of the school there are many students off school with 'flu-like' symptoms; currently in international section we have been notified that around only 3 or 4 students have had flu and are now ready to come back to school or have already returned to school. If your child is diagnosed with either of the current influenza A or B virus', please inform the school office as soon as possible. Thank you.

Wishing everyone a very enjoyable weekend, seems that it might be getting cooler next week, so please layer up the children to allow them to be warm for school bus but able to remove clothing when it is warmer during the school day.

Simon Walton
Principal